

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115381
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 H-01 STR-07 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 /042 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/GCP - C MAST
APPROVED BY EB/OT/ITP - SAHMAD
EB - W LOCKWOOD
H - T WESTON
STR - JDONALDSON
EA/EP - A HEGBERG
EA/TIMBS - D SULLIVAN

-----030405 052329Z /66

O 052150Z MAY 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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FOR HEGINBOTHAM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OVIP, ETRA (MONDALE, WALTER F.)

SUBJECT: GSP FOR INDONESIA

REF: BANGKOK 12986

1. AT THE END OF THE LAST SESSION OF THE LAST CONGRESS
(1976) WHEN ADMINISTRATION BILLS ON OPEC EXCLUSION
WERE BEFORE THE CONGRESS, AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE BY SENATOR
BENTSEN IN THE SENATE AND CHARLES VANIK IN THE HOUSE TO
HAVE AN OPEC WAIVER AMENDMENT PASSED AS A RIDER TO A
MINOR TARIFF BILL. THIS EFFORT DID NOT COME TO
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FRUITION. ANOTHER AMENDMENT, HOWEVER, WAS PASSED AS
A RIDER TO A TARIFF BILL AND IS NOW PART OF THE LAW.
THIS AMENDMENT (SECTION 502(B) (7)) FURTHER RESTRICTED
THE APPLICABILITY OF THE GSP PROGRAM BY PROHIBITING GSP
FOR ANY COUNTRY AIDING AND ABETTING TERRORISTS BY
GRANTING SANCTUARY FROM PROSECUTION.

2. WHILE NO OTHER KNOWN RESTRICTIVE AMENDMENTS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BY INTRODUCTION OF BILLS INTO CONGRESS ITSELF, THE AFL-CIO AT ITS MOST RECENT CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES ADOPTED A RESOLUTION WHICH INTER ALIA RECOMMENDED REPEAL OF THE ENTIRE GSP PROGRAM.

3. AT PRESENT THERE ARE A LARGE NUMBER OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONGRESS LIMITING THE PRESIDENT'S CURRENT TRADE ACT TARIFF CUTTING AUTHORITY IN SPECIFIC PRODUCT AREAS. SOME OF THESE EFFORTS ARE WIDELY SUPPORTED. THESE AMENDMENTS WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE US TARIFF CUTTING OBJECTIVES IN THE MTN. ANY ATTEMPTS TO AMEND GSP AT THIS TIME COULD WELL BRING SIMILAR PRESSURE ON CONGRESS BY DOMESTIC INTERESTS WHO HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN HAVING CERTAIN PRODUCTS REMOVED FROM GSP VIA THE PETITION PROCESS TO HAVE THESE CONTROVERSIAL PRODUCTS REMOVED BY CONGRESSIONAL AMENDMENT. IN ADDITION, WIDESPREAD DOMESTIC CONCERN WITH GROWING IMPORTS FROM CERTAIN MORE ADVANCED LDCS MIGHT WELL PROMPT OTHER AMENDMENTS TO EXCLUDE OR FURTHER RESTRICT THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR GSP TREATMENT SHOULD THERE BE CONSIDERATION OF BILLS PROPOSING TO BROADEN ELIGIBILITY TO INCLUDE OPEC COUNTRIES. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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